

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00284 012048Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-11 PM-07 SCI-06 AGR-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /226 W

----- 039818

R 012010Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6015

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 154

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, TD

SUBJECT: ENERGY: GOTT HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH OIL COMPANIES  
AND FOREIGN MISSIONS

REF: POS 0147 (NOTAL); POS 0155 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN A WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITY, PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOTT IS IN THE MIDST OF DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING OIL POLICY, ENERGY-RELATED INDUSTRY, AND JOINT VENTURES WITH GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM NIGERIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES AND OIL COMPANIES OPERATING LOCALLY. THE GOTT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE FORTHCOMING  
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VISIT OF A PRC-CITIZEN UN OFFICIAL. THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IS

EVIDENCE THAT THE GOTT IS INDEED SERIOUS ABOUT EMBARKING UPON THE WIDE-RANGING ENERGY-BASED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OUTLINED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT OIL POLICY SPEECH (REFTELS) AND THE 1974 BUDGET MESSAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED JANUARY 31 THAT A SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS IS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE GOTT AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS, AS WELL AS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN BUSINESS INTERESTS, "ALL OF WHICH HAVE SOME RELEVANCE TO THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS." NIGERIA'S FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SEPTTEL),

INDONESIA'S UN PERREP, A MISSION FROM JAPAN'S SUMITOMO, AND A FRENCH BUSINESS GROUP, ARE ALL EXPECTED TO VISIT TRINIDAD IN THE FEBRUARY 1-15 PERIOD. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PM'S PRESS RELEASE, A PRC-CITIZEN UN UNDER SECRETARY--TANG MING-CHAO-- WILL ARRIVE IN TRINIDAD FEBRUARY 11. MOST OF THE GROUPS WILL MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS, PETROLEUM MINISTER FRANCIS PREVATT,

AS WELL AS OTHER MINISTERS ACCORDING TO THE NATURE OF THEIR BUSINESS. THE INDONESIAN AND NIGERIAN VISITS ARE SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS OIL QUESTIONS, WHILE THE JAPANESE MISSION WILL CONSIDER A NUMBER OF ENERGY MATTERS, PETROLEUM-BASED INDUSTRIES, FISH PROCESSING AND AGRICULTURE. THE FRENCH DISCUSSIONS INVOLVE "INVESTMENT PROJECTS ON A JOINT VENTURE BASIS WHICH ARE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION," QUITE POSSIBLY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CROSS-TRINIDAD NATURAL GAS PIELINE.

2. THE GOTT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH UNIDENTIFIED "BUSINESS INTERESTS FROM THE UNITED STATES" ARE UNDER WAY. THESE TALKS PROBABLY INVOLVE SOME OF THE VARIOUS SCHEDMES PROPOSED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF TRINIDAD'S OFFSHORE NATURAL GAS RESERVES AS AN ENERGY SOUVE FOR NEW INDUSTRY. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ALSO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRINIDAD-TESORO PETROLEUM COMPANY, TRINIDAD'S FOURTH LARGEST PRODUCER, WHICH IS JOINTLY OWNED BY THE GOTT AND THE US-BASED TESORO PETROLEUM COMPANY.

3. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER CLEARLY WISHES TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THE GOTT IS MOVING AHEAD ON THE MANY FRONTS OUTLINED IN HIS JANUARY 17 PETROLEUM SPEECH (REFTELS) AND THE JANUARY 21 BUDGET  
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PRESENTATION (POS 0185, 0175, A-09). THIS BURST OF ACTIVITY IS INDEED UNUSUAL IN TRINIDAD'S HECTIC PRE-CARNIVAL SEASON, WHICH IS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF THE GOTT'S SERIOUSNESS. NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR THE VISIT OF THE UN UNDER SECRETARY, WHO WILL MEET WITH WILLIAMS, BUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT POINTEDLY NOTED THAT HE IS A CITIZEN OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. ALTHOUGH A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY HAS TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE HAD BEEN

ASSURED BY TWO GOTT MINISTERS THAT THE GOTT'S FORTHCOMING OIL  
MISSION IS TO VISIT TAIWAN, NOT THE PRC, THE UN OFFICIALS'S VISIT  
MAY NEVERTHELESS BE RELATED TO THE GOTT MISSION'S PLANS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PRIME MINISTER, PETROLEUM, POLICIES, SPEECHES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** POS 0147 (NOTAL); POS 0155 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ENERGY: GOTT HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH OIL COMPANIES AND FOREIGN MISSIONS  
**TAGS:** ENRG, PFOR, TD, NI, ID, JA, FR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005